Shortage of urea due to closure of units

1217. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the acute shortage of urea in the country;

(b) why Government have failed to anticipate the crisis by closing down the seven urea producing fertilizer units, totalling a production capacity of 20 lakh tonnes; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to revive these fertilizer units with Naphtha/LNG/Natural Gas on a fast tract basis to make the urea available to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) While the demand, availability and sale of fertilizers in the country during 2006-07 (upto January'07) were as follows, sufficient availability of fertilizers was ensured by the Department of Fertilizers in each of the months in Kharif and Rabi at the state level in all the State:

01.04.2006 to 31.01.2007 *(in lakh MT)*

Product	Demand (Assessed before the season)	Availability	Sales
Urea	223.12	222:94	208.71
DAP	73.46	77.79	62.09
MOP	28.44	22.76	20.06

(b) and (c) Now, the Department of Fertilizers is exploring possibilities for revival of units of M/s. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited which were closed in pursuance of the Cabinet decision in year 2002.

Effect of change in pesticide policy

1218. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any change in pesticide policy recently;